

Legislative Analysis



ELIMINATE ASSET TEST FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Senate Bill 35 as reported from House committee

Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Irwin

House Committee: Economic Development and Small Business

Senate Committee: Housing and Human Services

Complete to 6-14-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 35 would amend the Social Welfare Act to remove the requirement that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) apply an asset test to determine an individual's financial eligibility for the Food Assistance Program (FAP). Currently, eligibility for the program is determined by the income, assets, and expenses of all members of a household, and applicants with over \$15,000 in assets do not qualify.¹

The bill would go into effect 90 days after enactment.

MCL 400.10d

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would likely have no fiscal impact. Currently, eligibility determinations are driven by the income-based assessment, and the elimination of the asset test would likely only have a nominal impact.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following entities testified in support of the bill (5-9-23):

- Michigan League for Public Policy
- Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
- American Heart Association
- African Bureau of Immigration and Social Affairs

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Department of Health and Human Services (5-9-23)
- Food Bank Council of Michigan (5-9-23)
- United Way of Southeastern MI (5-16-23)
- Center for Employment Opportunities (5-9-23)
- NASW (5-9-23)
- Center for Civil Justice (5-9-23)
- Michigan Poverty Law Program (5-9-23)
- Authority Health (5-16-23)

¹ Current FAP eligibility criteria can be found here: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/food/eligibility>.

- Authority Health Motion Coalition (5-16-23)
- Michigan Community Action (5-9-23)
- Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (5-9-23)
- Michigan Catholic Conference (5-16-23)
- Michigan County Social Services Association (5-16-23)
- Detroit Regional Chamber (5-16-23)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.